

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-66 are pending. Claim 25 has been canceled. Claims 1, 11, 14, 17, 21, 38, 53 - 55, 58 - 59, and 62 have been amended.

No new matter has been added.

Abstract

The Examiner objects to the language and format of the abstract. The abstract has been amended to avoid the objected language.

Status of the claims

Claims 14-15, 54-55 and 59 have been objected due to informalities. Claims 14, 53 - 55 and 59 have been amended. Applicants submit that the objection has been overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11, 12, 16-28, 21, 23-30, 32-39 and 42-66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,097,389 of Morris et al. ("Morris") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,166,735 of Dom et al. ("Dom"). Claims 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 31, 40 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris in view of Dom and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,173 of Ubillos ("Ubillos").

Amended claim 1 recites in part:

"means for displaying a first list of reduced visual representations of a

plurality of media objects ordered automatically in chronological order and grouped by media objects relating to one another”

(Emphasis added).

Morris teaches a digital picture album having a thumbnail region (305) and an album page region (309) for a selected album. (Figure 5). The thumbnail region displays thumbnails of all of the pictures in a picture database when a shoebox icon is selected. (Col. 7, lines 1-5; Figure 12B; col. 13, lines 12-15; Figure 12C, col. 14, lines 18-20; Figure 12E, col. 14, lines 36-38). The order of pictures displayed in the thumbnail region may be changed by dragging and dropping the particular thumbnail from its current position in the thumbnail region to another position in the thumbnail region. (Col. 13, lines 37-49). The thumbnail region can also display thumbnails of all of the pictures in a selected album. (Figure 12F, col. 14, lines 54-60; Figure 13, col. 15, lines 3-8). The picture album authoring software determines an ordered list of pictures for a desired album. The order of the pictures in the list may be changed by the user by dragging and dropping the thumbnails in the thumbnail region. (Col. 6, lines 2-10). The Examiner refers to the thumbnail region as the first region (305). (Office Action, page 2).

Thus, Morris teaches that the picture album software determines an ordered list of pictures in the first region, and this ordered list can be changed by dragging a thumbnail from one position in the first region and dropping that thumbnail at another position in the first region. Morris, however, does not teach how the pictures are ordered by the picture album authoring software.

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention includes the feature "the media objects ordered automatically in chronological order." Furthermore, because Morris teaches that the ordered list can be changed by dragging and dropping a thumbnail from one position to another position in the first region, Morris teaches away from having an ordered list in the chronological order.

Accordingly, applicants submit that, at least for the above reason, the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome and that claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable in view of the above references.

For the same reason given above, applicant submits that independent claims 11, 21, 38, and 62 and their corresponding dependent claims are also patentable in view of the references.

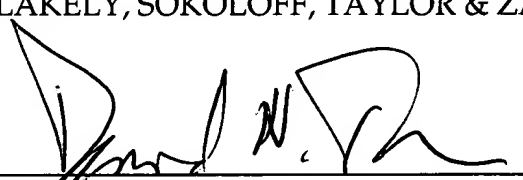
For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: 4/1/2002


David N. Tran
Reg. No. 50,804

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(408) 720-8300

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

A marked up version of the amended claims 1, 11, 14, 17, 21, 38, 53 - 55, 58 - 59, and 62 is provided below. Additions are indicated with “__” and deletions are indicated within “[]”.

1. (Amended) A apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a first list of reduced visual representations of a plurality of media objects ordered automatically in chronological order and grouped by media objects relating to one another;
means for displaying a second list of reduced visual representations of the plurality of media objects ordered manually;
means for navigating among the reduced visual representations; and
means for displaying the plurality of media objects.
11. (Amended) A method comprising:
displaying a first list of reduced visual representations of a plurality of media objects ordered automatically in chronological order and grouped by media objects relating to one another;
displaying a second list of reduced visual representations of the plurality of media objects ordered manually;
navigating among the reduced visual representations; and
displaying the plurality of media objects.
14. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 11 wherein displaying the plurality of media objects comprises displaying imported stories, the authored stories,

and/or a representation for each associated audio clip for a selected object in the imported stories or the authored stories.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein displaying [comprises] a first list of reduced visual representations of a plurality of media objects comprises displaying a series of audio files.
21. (Amended) A system comprising
a storage device having a plurality of stories, each story comprising of a plurality of objects; and
a processor in communication with the storage device, the processor:
display a first story track for a plurality of imported stories which have objects automatically ordered in chronological order,
display a second story track for a plurality of authored stories,
display a full size image of a selected object in the story,
process navigation input from a user, the navigation input comprising moving a track selection from one story track to another story track, moving an object selection from one object to another object, and
process operational input from the user, the operation input comprising playing the story, stopping recording or the playing, and saving the story.
38. (Amended) A method comprising:
selecting a plurality of objects, the selected objects coming from a plurality of stories displayed on a first track having one or more image

objects ordered chronologically and displayed thereon or a second track containing one or more previously generated stories of one or more image objects stored as a story, the selected objects placed in a third track to form a story;

recording a narration for each selected object and associating the narration with the selected object;

saving the authored story in the second track; and

playing the story.

53. (Amended) The [system] method of claim 38 wherein each imported story is an automatically constructed group, each imported story is visually distinguishable from another, and each authored story is visually distinguishable from another.
54. (Amended) The [system] method of claim [52] 53 wherein each story on the same track has a different colored background, and wherein each story is separated from the other by a gap.
55. (Amended) The [system] method of claim 54 wherein the gap represents a time difference between story creation times.
58. (Amended) The system of claim 21 [where in] wherein the objects in the first track, the second track and the third track are displayed as thumbnail images or in reduced representation of the corresponding objects.
59. (Amended) The system of claim [42] 58 wherein a first thumbnail image for each story is used to represent the corresponding story when the tracks are configured to display in collapse form.

62. (Amended) A system comprising:

means for storing digital stories, the digital stories comprising of imported stories and authored stories, each story comprising of a plurality of objects, wherein objects in the imported stories are ordered in chronological order;

means for authoring stories using stored objects;

means for displaying story tracks associated with the imported stories and the authored stories; and

means for navigating among the story tracks and among the objects on a story track.